

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a biodegradable composite according to claim 16, comprising the steps of:
 - a) selecting at least one first polymer for the matrix;
 - b) selecting at least one bioceramic material, bioglass material or mixture thereof for use as the bioceramic or bioglass reinforcing component;
 - c) mixing said first polymer and said bioceramic or bioglass reinforcing component together to form a mixture;
 - d) selecting at least one second polymer in a fiber form for the resorbable polymeric reinforcing component;
 - e) placing said second polymer into a desired formation;
 - f) combining said mixture of step (c) and said formation of step (e) to yield a second mixture; and
 - g) subjecting the second mixture of step (f) to heat or pressure.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) The composite material according to claim 16 wherein the at least one resorbable polymeric reinforcing component comprises at least one fiber having a variable thickness.
5. (Previously Presented) The composite material according to claim 16 wherein the at least one resorbable polymeric reinforcing component is selected from the group

consisting of a fabric, a plain polymeric fiber structure, a woven structure and a braided structure.

6. (Previously Presented) The composite material according to claim 16 wherein the form of the bioceramic or bioglass reinforcing component is selected from the group consisting of powder, flakes, spheres and fibers.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The composite material according to claim 16 wherein the amount of bioceramic or bioglass reinforcing component is 0.15 to 0.9 volume fraction.

10. (Previously Presented) The composite material according to claim 9 wherein the amount of bioceramic or bioglass reinforcing component is 0.2 to 0.6 volume fraction.

11. (Previously Presented) The composite material according to claim 16 further comprising additives selected from the group consisting of surface modifiers to improve attachment between the resorbable polymeric reinforcing component and the bioceramic or bioglass reinforcing component, a pharmaceutically active agent, and combinations thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) The composite material according to claim 11 wherein the pharmaceutically active agent is selected from the group consisting of antibiotics, wound-healing agents, chemotherapeutic agents, growth hormones, anticoagulants, and combinations thereof.

13. (Previously Presented) The composite material according to claim 16 wherein the resorbable polymeric matrix component is selected from the group consisting of polyglycolide, copolymers of glycolide, glycolide/L-lactide copolymers, glycolide/trimethylene carbonate copolymers, polylactides, stereocopolymers of polylactides, poly-L-lactide, poly-DL-lactide, L-lactide/DL-lactide copolymers, copolymers of polylactides, lactide/tetramethylglycolide copolymers, lactide/trimethylene

carbonate copolymers, lactide/d-valerolactone copolymers, lactide/e-caprolactone copolymers, polylactide/polyethylene oxide copolymers, polydepsipeptides, unsymmetrically 3,6-substituted poly-1,4-dioxane-2,5-diones, poly- β -hydroxybutyrate, poly- β -hydroxybutyrate/b-hydroxyvalerate copolymers, poly- β -hydroxypropionate, poly-p-dioxanone, poly-d-valerolactone, poly-e-caprolactone, methylmethacrylate-N-vinyl pyrrolidone copolymers, polyesteramides, polyesters of oxalic acid, polydihydropyrans, polyalkyl-2-cyanocrylates, polyurethanes, polyvinylalcohol, polypeptides, poly- β -malic acid, poly- β -alkanoic acids, polycarbonates, polyorthoesters and polyphosphates.

14. (Previously Presented) The composite material according to claim 16 wherein the bioceramic or bioglass reinforcing component is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyapatite, calcium phosphates, alumina, zirconia, bioactive gel-glass, alpha wollastonite glass ceramic, and mixtures of bioglass and bioceramic materials.

15. (Previously Presented) The composite material according to claim 16 wherein the composite material exhibits ductile behavior under load.

16. (Previously presented) A biodegradable and bioactive composite material for surgical osteosynthesis applications comprising: i) at least one resorbable polymeric matrix component, ii) at least one resorbable polymeric reinforcing component in fiber form, and iii) at least one bioceramic or bioglass reinforcing component mixed with said matrix component, the diameter of the resorbable polymeric reinforcing component being greater than the diameter or particle size of the bioceramic or bioglass reinforcing component, wherein the bioceramic or bioglass reinforcing component has a particle size between 60 μm and 150 μm .

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2 wherein the mixing of step c) is accomplished by melt mixing.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2 wherein the mixing of step c) is accomplished by solvent mixing.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2 wherein step e) is accomplished manually.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2 wherein step e) is accomplished with use of a machine.

21-22. (Cancelled).